

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

By this amendment, Claims 1 and 21 are amended, and claims 6-20 and 26-40 are canceled. Hence, Claims 1-5 and 21-25 are pending in the application.

I. SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-5 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0143735 to Ayi et al. ("*Ayi*") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,787,428 issued to Hart ("*Hart*"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 6-20 and 26-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,859,966 issued to Hayman et al. ("*Hayman*") in view of *Ayi*. Claims 6-20 and 26-40 are canceled.

II. THE REJECTIONS BASED ON THE CITED ART

Claims 1-5 and 21-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *Ayi* in view of *Hart*. As amended, Claims 1 and 21 recite, among other features, "adding, to the table, a first policy column that stores labels for a first policy that has a first policy type that is selected from a set of policy types consisting of: (a) a compartmented policy type in which a label associated with a particular row must exactly match a subject's label in order for the subject to gain access to the particular row, (b) a multi-level policy type in which a label associated with the particular row must be at a same or lower level of security than a level of security associated with the subject in order for the subject to gain access to the particular row, and (c) a hierarchical policy type in which a label associated with the particular row must be at a same level of security associated with the subject or at a lower level on a same branch of a hierarchy that contains the level of security associated with the subject in order for the subject to gain access to the particular row; and adding, to the table, a second policy column that stores labels for a second policy that has a second policy type that is selected from the set of policy types; wherein the first policy type differs from the second policy type." Thus, Claims 1 and 21 require the addition, to the table, of policy columns storing labels for policies having

different policy types. Support for the amendment to Claims 1 and 21 may be found, for example, in paragraph [0032] and FIG. 1A of the application as filed.

Neither *Avi* nor *Hart* appears to disclose, teach, or suggest that different policy columns of a table are associated with different policy types. Even if *Avi* or *Hart* discloses that multiple policies may be associated with a table, neither *Avi* nor *Hart* appears to disclose that these policies even have policy types, let alone that multiple policies associated with the same table are of expressly different policy types.

For at least the above reasons, Claims 1 and 21, as well as the claims that depend from either Claim 1 or Claim 21, are patentable over *Avi* and *Hart* under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

/ChristianANicholes#50266/

Christian A. Nicholes

Reg. No. 50,266

Date: February 20, 2012

1 Almaden Blvd, 12 Floor

San Jose, CA 95113

Telephone: (408) 414-1224

Facsimile: (408) 414-1076